

Marcos in 'guarded condition'

HONOLULU (R) — Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Saturday awaited results of tests taken after he was rushed to hospital with congestive heart failure. Marcos, 71, was admitted to St. Francis Hospital on the advice of his doctor Friday after complaining of chest pains. A hospital spokeswoman said Marcos was listed in "guarded condition" and had had a restful night. His wife, Imelda, described by aides as "extremely upset," spent the night in an adjacent hospital room. The spokeswoman said no further information would be released on Marcos's condition until after doctors had studied the results of the medical tests. Congestive heart failure means that the heart is unable to maintain adequate circulation of blood. The couple's spokesman, Gemma Trinidad, said Marcos began experiencing chest pains Friday morning after learning that his pregnant daughter Lina Manotoc was having medical problems. She lives in exile in Morocco. After Marcos was rushed from his expensive Makiki Heights home to hospital, doctors stabilised his heartbeat and determined that he had not suffered a heart attack. The hospital reported he was able to eat and had sat up in bed and joked with nurses.

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AROUND THE WORLD...

Ghali: Israel undermines peace efforts

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian cabinet minister Saturday said Israel's latest raid into Lebanon undermines Middle East peace efforts and encourages extremism. Boutros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, demanded total Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Ghali commented to reporters about Friday's attack by Israeli ground, air and sea forces on Palestinian positions deep inside Lebanon (See page 2). "In mounting the attack, Israel strikes at the hope for peace, opens the way for escalation of violence and extremism and obstructs peacemaking efforts," Ghali said. "Israel must withdraw its forces to the international border with Lebanon and respond to the call for peace and coexistence for the benefit of all peoples of the region."

Two Kuwaiti brothers and sister go on trial

KUWAIT (AP) — The state security court Saturday began the trial of two Kuwaiti brothers and their sister charged with illegal possession of explosive material. The defendants are Abdel Amir Saleh Mousa Hussein Al Attar, 37, his brother Maher, 26, and his sister, Laila, 28. The three defendants also have been accused of concealing information from the authorities by failing to report the death of two family members killed when a bomb-laden car they were riding exploded last July. The court adjourned until next Saturday at the request of the defence.

Cuba ready to sign Angola agreement

HAVANA (R) — Cuba restated Friday its readiness to sign a peace protocol on Angola and Namibia, and blamed delays on a "lack of seriousness" from South Africa. "We are ready to sign now. But we need guarantees that we are going to meet serious people," Deputy Foreign Minister Ricardo Alarcon said. Alarcon headed the Cuban delegation at a meeting last weekend in the Congolese capital, Brazzaville, where hopes of signing a long-awaited peace protocol covering Cuban withdrawal from Angola and independence for South African-ruled Namibia were dashed by a hasty South African departure. The meeting is expected to resume Monday.

Sudanese troops kill 26 Chadians

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudanese troops killed 26 armed members of a Chadian opposition group and captured 11 during week-long clashes in Darfur in western Sudan, Darfur's governor said Saturday. Al Tigani Al Sisi told reporters the troops seized trucks and arms from the men of the National Salvation Front during fighting in several areas. The rest of the 250-strong band later fled back into Chad, he said. Darfur has been plagued for years by tribal rivalries and intermittent spillovers from Chad's long-running civil strife and its recent war against Libya.

Joint mission to Mars advocated for

WASHINGTON (AP) — Astronomer-author Carl Sagan says the United States should join the Soviet Union's proposed joint manned expedition to Mars for stability on Earth in the 21st century. "It's not a question of if, we don't join, it won't happen. It's going to happen. The human species... is going to go to Mars," Sagan told a George Washington University symposium on space exploration. "It is rather clear that eventually the Soviets will go with us or without us and also that if the U.S. does not wish to join the Soviets — or if it does — other nations, in Europe, Japan, perhaps China and India will join." So the question is "will the U.S. be involved?" Sagan told the Friday evening gathering. Experts of the two countries have been discussing the Soviet proposal.

Dubcek says he was under house arrest

PRAGUE (AP) — Ousted Communist Party leader Alexander Dubcek says he was under house arrest Friday, when French President Francois Mitterrand visited Dubcek's home town of Bratislava. Dubcek told Western reporters that police cars kept circling his home and that he could not leave his villa on the hills overlooking the centre of Bratislava. On Saturday, Dubcek's wife Anna told reporters by telephone that the police had gone and that her husband had been able to leave the house. It was the first time that Dubcek had been kept under such close watch since April 1987, when Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visited Czechoslovakia and blanket police surveillance of Dubcek was abruptly lifted.

Banker arrested in Greek scandal

ATHENS (AP) — The deputy chairman of the Bank of Crete was arrested Saturday and charged with complicity in a multimillion dollar scandal that has rocked the Socialist government. Panayotis Vakkalis, 46, was arrested as he left his suburban Athens home and was taken to security police headquarters, said a police spokesman. Vakkalis was detained after a magistrate investigating the case issued a warrant for his arrest. An arraignment is set for Monday, the spokesman said. Vakkalis is accused of complicity in a 45-billion-drachma (\$300-million) fraud, forgery and embezzlement case involving the Bank of Crete's fugitive chairman.

Walesa, Sakharov meet in France

PARIS (R) — Poland's Solidarity leader Lech Walesa and Soviet human rights activist Andrei Sakharov met Saturday for the first time ahead of celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The two men, both winners of the Nobel Peace Prize, met early Saturday at their hotel on the outskirts of Paris. Walesa's top adviser, Bronislaw Geremek, told reporters. A spokeswoman for the banned Polish trade union said the two men spent half an hour talking in Walesa's hotel but broke up early as Walesa had an appointment with French Prime Minister Michel Rocard. "They very much hope to get together again this weekend to continue their discussions," the spokeswoman said.

Trefgarne visits Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — A British junior defence minister has arrived in Bahrain on a one-day official visit, a British embassy spokesman said Saturday. He said Lord Trefgarne had met Emir Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa and was to hold talks with the crown prince and commander-in-chief of the defence force, Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. The spokesman termed the visit by Britain's minister of state for defence as routine. Lord Trefgarne was due to leave for Thailand Saturday night. He arrived here from Jordan.

Fadlallah: Hostages' issue frozen

BEIRUT (AP) — An influential Shi'ite cleric said in a magazine interview published Saturday the question of foreign hostages held in Lebanon "is now in the fridge." Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual guide of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah said: "The question (of the hostages) is now in the fridge, pending the completion of the backstage probes that could influence the issue." Fadlallah, who spoke in an interview with the Al Nahar Arab and International weekly, did not elaborate. Hizbollah is believed to be the umbrella for factions holding most of the 16 foreign hostages. In a separate report, the same magazine said Hizbollah had threatened to kill some of the hostages to stop attacks on its positions in west and south Beirut by the rival Amal militia last month. Al Nahar Arab and International is based in east Beirut. None of its previous reports about the hostages proved accurate.

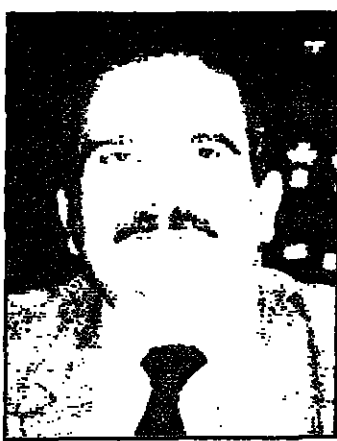
Crown Prince: Security Council accountable for 242 and 338

By Saleem B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Economics Correspondent

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has urged the United Nations Security Council to find a mechanism to "operationalise" Resolutions 242 and 338 towards achieving a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Crown Prince said the Arab side and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) "must ask in very direct terms" for an accounting of the Security Council's implementation of the withdrawal Resolution (242) and Resolution (338) calling for an international peace conference on the Middle East.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Prince Hassan said the fate of the proposed conference was "dependent on what



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

Security Council members have to say today, twenty years after 242, on how they see an implementation of these resolutions. "It is all very well for Security Council government officials to

say 'we need a clear acceptance of 242 and 338', but it is also the right of Palestinians to ask what does that clear acceptance entail in terms of the responsibilities of the Security Council."

Prince Hassan warned against a continuous emphasis by the Israeli and international media on the need to find "alternative interlocutors in the context of the occupied territories." He said such an emphasis was designed to "dilute the thrust of the Palestinian uprising from that of achieving an end to the Israeli occupation into some form of a discussion between the Israeli body politic and sectors of Palestinian opinion." He noted that such an approach would force most Palestinians to adopt extremist positions.

He maintained that there was a conviction among Israelis and Palestinians alike that "there has

to be some form of a U.N. lid on the potential of further violence in the region."

Furthermore, he warned that Israel may seek to exploit regional conflicts to serve as suitable diversions from what happens in the occupied territories. He cited provocative Israeli acts in Lebanon as an example.

Asked about Jordan's relations with the PLO, the Crown Prince said that as these relations develop, it was very important to bear in mind that the Kingdom's decision to disengage from the West Bank "was basically taken once again at the front burner."

Jordan's role

He stressed that Jordan's regional role was not diminished

(Continued on page 2)

2 Palestinians killed, 17 shot and wounded

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians Saturday, including a 16-year-old boy who allegedly hurled a firebomb at soldiers in occupied Gaza City and an Arab prisoner who allegedly attacked a guard with a homemade knife.

At least another 17 Palestinians were shot and wounded in the occupied areas, hospital officials said. The 16-year-old Gaza City boy, Hosni Abu Sido, was one of a group of teenagers who allegedly threw gasoline-filled bottles at a patrol city Saturday morning, just hours after a curfew was lifted and residents were allowed out of

their homes, the army said. The prisoner who was killed, 20-year-old Abdallah Abu Mahruka, allegedly tried to stab a guard with a makeshift knife while he and fellow inmates in the Ansar II detention camp were taken out on a daily walk. A second guard shot and killed him, the army said.

Abu Mahruka was serving an 18-month sentence for preparing molotov cocktails, the army spokesman said. International relief workers said they saw ambulances and army vehicles entering and leaving Ansar II, amid reports by Palestinians of violent incidents inside the camp.

Palestinians reported clashes with the army in the West Bank towns of Ramallah and Kufri Jamal, near Tulkarem.

Saturday's deaths raised the number of Palestinians killed in the year-old anti-Israeli revolt to 332.

At 11 a.m., Gaza City storekeepers closed shop and traffic stood still for five minutes of silence in memory of the Palestinians killed in the uprising, which began Dec. 8, 1987.

A Palestinian journalist said soldiers positioned on rooftops started shooting in the air and firing tear gas into the streets during the ceremony.

U.N. chief accepts Nobel prize, says unpaid dues threaten mission

OSLO (Agencies) — The U.N. secretary-general accepted the Nobel Peace Prize Saturday for half a million past and present peacekeeping soldiers, but warned that their mission was threatened because the United States and other countries don't pay their dues.

It was the first time in its 87-year history that the prize went to military forces, noted Egil Aarvik, chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. "Peacekeeping uses soldiers as servants of peace rather than as the instruments of war. It introduces to the military sphere the principle of non-violence," said U.N. chief Javier Perez de Cuellar, who received the gold medal and prize certificate from Aarvik.

Perez de Cuellar said 733 men had been killed since U.N. peacekeeping operations began in 1948. In all, about 500,000 men from 58 countries have served in the forces, and 10,000 are now on duty.

Hundreds of guests, including Norway's King Olav and injured U.N. soldiers, bowed their heads

for a minute's silence in the Great Hall of Oslo University, in memory of the men who have died since U.N. peace missions began 40 years ago.

Perez de Cuellar also repeated an appeal for the release of U.S. marine Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins, kidnapped earlier this year in Lebanon while serving with a U.N. observer group.

"We are now at a time of extraordinary hope and promise for the United Nations," Perez de Cuellar said. "The prospects of realising the vision expressed in the charter of the United Nations seem better today than at any time since the organisation was founded."

A new mood of understanding and moves towards a resolution of the Gulf war and the Afghanistan conflict should be credited to U.N. efforts, he said.

"Peace-keeping operations symbolise the world community's will to peace... the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to these operations illuminates the hope and strengthens the promise of this

extraordinary concept."

He said the award honoured the blue-helmeted soldiers, who had been servants of peace rather than instruments of war.

Perez de Cuellar Friday accepted a check worth \$416,000, a tiny fraction of the \$979.1 million owed in unpaid regular dues and peacekeeping assessments.

The prize is enough to maintain U.N. forces in southern Lebanon for just one day.

Aarvik told the assembly that the award was a recognition of the entire U.N. system and the growing confidence in it.

After the ceremony Perez de Cuellar flew to Paris to attend celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the U.N. Human Rights Declaration.

The Nobel prizes, established by Swedish millionaire and inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel, were first awarded in 1901. Those for medicine, physics, chemistry, economics and literature are awarded in Stockholm — also Dec. 10, the anniversary of Nobel's death.

No freedom in sight for PoWs as Iran-Iraq deadlock persists

GENEVA (R) — Gulf prisoners of war (PoWs), victim of distrust between Iran and Iraq, still languish in their prison camps as deadlines for their release go unheeded.

Dec. 10 was one more of those deadlines, when an exchange of 1,158 Iraqi sick and wounded PoWs and 411 Iranians was supposed to have been completed.

But the prisoner swap broke down only a few days after its Nov. 24 start, and a Swiss aircraft chartered for the purpose returned to Switzerland Wednesday after waiting without hope of the deadline being met.

"For the time being it seems it's blocked," said Jurg Bischoff, spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which was arranging the operation.

The 1,569 PoWs, those accounted for by the ICRC until they were forced to stop such registrations two years ago, were only a part of the total number of sick and wounded on whose exchange the two sides agreed in

talks in Geneva last month. By Dec. 5, another deadline, the two sides were to have presented the ICRC with a list of all new sick and wounded PoWs.

Iran announced in Tehran that it had received no such list.

All sick and wounded PoWs were to have been repatriated by the end of the year, but their fate now depends on good will by both sides in negotiations with the ICRC. The mutual lack of trust after eight years of war has proved enormous.

"We're still trying to convince them to resume," Bischoff told Reuters.

The registered prisoners were supposed to have been sent off in daily, proportional groups of 115 Iraqis and 411 Iranians, but that arrangement collapsed Nov. 27 after only three partial exchanges.

Iran presented only 51 or 52 prisoners rather than 115 each time, saying some were no longer sick or wounded and others had asked for asylum.

That angered Baghdad, which said Tehran was violating its responsibility to allow each Iraqi prisoner talk to ICRC delegates in private — free from possible Iranian pressure — to state whether he wanted to go home.

"We need to have a death certificate or to see the person," Bischoff said.

Iraq retaliated by allowing only 18 or 19 Iranians to go back each time, and Iran then stopped the exchange altogether.

Red Cross delegates in Tehran and Baghdad were talking to the two sides, and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, who was due in Geneva next week for a U.N. debate on Palestine, might have discussions with ICRC officials here.

In any case, the unwell prisoners are only a small percentage of more than 100,000 PoWs believed held by both sides.

No early release for them is in sight, Iran refusing to negotiate their release until Iraq agrees to leave its territory and Baghdad refusing to go.

Kuwaiti emir praises U.N. stand

KUWAIT (R) — The emir of Kuwait, current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) praised the U.N. General Assembly Saturday for shifting its debate on Palestine to Geneva. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah told the opening session of an Islamic jurisprudence conference that Washington's decision to deny Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat a visa to speak at U.N. headquarters in New York was biased. "We salute the United Nations and the General Assembly for their just support for Palestinian rights and their decision that the Palestinian word be delivered at the European headquarters in Geneva," he said. Religious scholars from the OIC's 46 member states are meeting under the aegis of the Jeddah-based Islamic Fiqh (Jurisprudence) Academy to discuss ethical issues facing Islam. They will discuss moral rights and the ethics of family planning, lease-back arrangements, real estate financing and traders' profits. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported. "Islamic thought faces great challenges from the discoveries and programmes of modern science and the Islamic community is seeking, especially young people, the views of religious scholars on these issues," Sheikh Jaber said.



HM King Hussein



President Hosni Mubarak

King, Mubarak exchange views

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Saturday exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual concern in the framework of consultation and coordination between Jordan and Egypt. The exchange of views came in a telephone conversation between the two leaders.

Death estimate revised; Gorbachev visits site

Massive aid effort in Armenia

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Saturday toured areas of Armenia hit by an earthquake that devastated two cities, virtually levelled a town and killed tens of thousands of people.

A senior official in Moscow said the first, incomplete estimate of casualties showed between 40,000 and 45,000 died in Wednesday's quake, which prompted Gorbachev to break off a trip to the United States and return home.

Officials also gave details of the operation to free residents trapped underneath huge piles of rubble amid growing accusations that organisers were ill-prepared and slow in launching the rescue plan.

The Soviet Union observed a day of mourning for victims of the tremor, described by officials as the most destructive in the area for more than a thousand years.

Flags with black borders were flown at half-mast in cities and television broadcasts featured classical music.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said Gorbachev landed in Leninakan, a major city where more than three-fourths of the housing was destroyed.

Nikiforov and other officials at a news briefing said 12,000 people were hurt and nearly 7,000 are hospitalised, many with burns and crushed limbs.

The first Western plane loads of doctors, search dogs and medical supplies arrived Friday as people from around the world joined an extraordinary effort to release thousands of people still trapped in the rubble who may be alive.

Soviet officials said 1,500 people were rescued from the ruins Friday after two full days in captivity.

Hundreds of doctors and nurses poured into Armenia from around the Soviet Union, and officials from each of the 15 Soviet republics were assigned construction jobs.

It will take two years to rebuild all the homes, factories, and community facilities ruined in the quake, Chaplin said.

The cities of Leninakan and Kirovakan near the Turkish border were almost destroyed. The town of Spitak in between was practically flattened.

"Initial figures, very approximate figures, show between 40,000 to 45,000 dead," Nikiforov said. "There are about 500,000 homeless, 12,000 have asked for medical assistance and 6,000 are in hospital."

His casualty figures were substantially lower than other unofficial and semi-official estimates

from the region. A spokesman at the official Armenian news agency, Armenpress, told Reuters Friday that up to 100,000 people could have been killed.

He based his estimate on the fact that there were only a handful of survivors in and around Spitak, which had a population of about 50,000.

Nikiforov discounted a death toll of 80,000 announced in London Friday by Soviet Ambassador to Britain Leonid Zamyatin.

He said that figure probably included injured as well as dead. Aid poured into Armenia from all over the world with relief teams and special earthquake rescue squads arriving in Armenia, including groups from France, Switzerland and Britain.

A team of 27 Armenian disaster relief specialists headed for Armenia Saturday morning with a plane load of supplies and eight dogs trained to find live victims in the rubble.

"This is a special opportunity for us to reach out and work with the Soviet Union," said Julia Taft, head of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of the State Department's Agency for International Development.

Taft was head of team that included nine doctors, among them Robert Gale, the Los Angeles physician who helped treat victims of the Chernobyl nuclear plant disaster in the Soviet Union.

The team planned to fly to Yerevan, the Armenian capital, after refuelling stops in Canada and Ireland.

Ethnic unrest subsides Soviet Major-General Anatoly Alexandrenko told reporters that all curfews had been lifted in both Armenia and Azerbaijan as the ethnic troubles of the past two weeks had subsided.

"There are no more curfews and no more special measures," he said. "All efforts are being directed towards helping the victims."

Aid flights Nikiforov said 13 flights were landing in Yerevan despite bad weather Saturday, with loads of equipment from the United States, India and other countries.

Soviet television news Friday night showed well-equipped teams of French and Swiss specialists arriving in the stricken area and a team of British firefighters in full dress uniform leaving London's Heathrow airport.

The television pictures showed no apparent sign of any expert direction of the rescue effort.

Fighters reinforce positions; death toll rises; Lebanon seeks urgent U.N. debate

Tension remains high near Beirut after Israeli raid

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Palestinian fighters reinforced their cratered and battered positions near Beirut Saturday, less than 24 hours after Israel carried out a land, sea and air offensive against them.

A spokesman for Palestinian group whose positions south of the Lebanese capital were rocketed for eight hours by Israeli helicopters and gunboats Friday said the fighters were on high alert. About 200 Israeli commandos took part in the assaults, under a curtain of rocketfire which lashed bases of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in the villages of Haret Al Naameh, Aramoun, Schemlan, Baawarta, and Abey, southeast of Beirut.

The attack turned Haret Al Naameh into a tangled mass of ruins. Roads were cratered by rockets and electricity cables cut. Pine trees were scythed down and splintered by the Israeli fire.

The death toll from the attack, Israel's deepest attack into Lebanon in five years rose to nine Saturday after one of the 16 wounded Palestinians died at hospital overnight, police said.

An Israeli officer, Lt.-Col. Amir Meital also was killed and three soldiers were wounded.

Bulldozers Saturday pushed rubble and debris off underground tunnels, bunkers and trenches where fighters shelter to escape Israeli air raids.

Israel confirmed one of its senior officers was killed and that at least 20 Palestinians died in the battles. Reports from the field said nine fighters — four Palesti-

nians and five militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) — were killed and 11 wounded. "We have sent more reserve fighters from Beirut and we are taking special measures to foil any future attack as we did Friday," the Palestinian spokesman said.

He said mines and boobytraps planted by Israeli commandos were dismantled and removed from around the devastated positions.

Soon after Friday's operation, dozens of PFLP-GC fighters, equipped with light weapons, were sent to Haret Al Naameh to reinforce their comrades in case of renewed Israeli action, witnesses said.

The Israeli attacks were first against areas near Beirut since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Analysts said Friday's raid underlined Israeli determination to crack down on Palestinian fighters despite recent conciliatory moves by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"Israel's muscle-flexing operation prove that the Jewish state is capable of launching attacks deep into Lebanon, thus isolating Beirut from its surroundings," one diplomat said.

Palestinian and Lebanese observers believe that Israel's

offensive was also intended to embarrass Arafat and to show him that Israel would maintain its active role in Lebanon.

U.N. debate sought

Lebanon has called for a Security Council meeting on the Israeli raid.

Lebanese Ambassador M. Rachid Fakhroury made the request Friday in a letter to the Security Council.

There was no immediate indication of when the council would meet.

Many senior ambassadors who might wish to speak on the issue before the council, particularly from Arab states, have departed for Geneva for next week's meeting on the issue of a Palestinian homeland.

Acting Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Hoss, who heads the civilian cabinet in the country's dual government, had instructed Fakhroury earlier Friday to lodge a complaint with the Security Council over the "flagrant Israeli aggression," his press office said.

Syrian comments

Syria said Saturday that the Israeli attack was aimed at showing the Zionist state's support for Lebanon's rightist hardliners.

The official daily Tishreen said: "The Israeli aggression came while the separatist gang of (Lebanon's) rightist leaders) Aoun-Geagea was escalating tension in Lebanon."

The semi-official daily Al Thawra said Friday's attacks were aimed at helping Israel's allies.



Burhanuddin Rabbani

Afghan rebel leader vows to pursue fight

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (R) — A senior Afghan rebel official said in remarks published Saturday that Mujahadeen forces would not stop fighting as long as Soviet forces remained in Afghanistan.

"There is no meaning in a ceasefire and stopping the fighting as long as the Russian army remains in Afghanistan," Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of a seven-party rebel alliance, was quoted as saying in the Okaz daily newspaper.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, speaking at the U.N. General Assembly, proposed a Jan. 1 ceasefire as part of moves towards settling the Afghan problem.

Gorbachev also suggested talks between Moscow, Soviet-backed Kabul and the Mujahadeen to form a broad-based government, and an international conference on Afghanistan.

Rabbani, who was among Afghan rebels who held talks with senior Soviet officials in Saudi Arabia last Sunday, praised Moscow for becoming more "realistic than any time in the past."

The Soviet officials and rebels agreed in Saudi Arabia to meet again in Pakistan later.

The rebels oppose an international conference and demand the withdrawal of the remaining 50,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

"If you consider the last year of the intifada, it is obvious that people only survived on available money in the mattress, and in bringing the money out of the mattress, one sees obviously an advantage for the (Israeli) shekel and a dehousing process and a flight from Jordan dinar in different currencies through international dealers to different destinations."

The Crown Prince said the flight from the dinar in the West Bank combined with a sense of uncertainty after the disengagement measures.

He affirmed that in the Jordanian-Palestinian context, "His Majesty has assured people that if these measures are politically justified, it does not mean that it is aimed at the fibre of the relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians, either in the context of Jordanian pluralism or in the context of East-West Bank relations. So I think a lot of mischief has been made out of that particular aspect of it."

He said that "the other side of the story is defence expenditure." He referred to Jordan's plan to purchase eight Tornado fighter jets for \$500 million, pointing out that in the context of the banking community, this spending is lumped together with borrowing for development purposes, thus putting further strains on the budget.

He referred to Jordan's plan to purchase eight Tornado fighter jets for \$500 million, pointing out that in the context of the banking community, this spending is lumped together with borrowing for development purposes, thus putting further strains on the budget.

He said North three years ago

Arab League to press for state observer status for PLO at U.N.

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Arab League said Friday it would push making the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) an observer-member of the United Nations, putting the organisation on a level with Switzerland and the Vatican.

"We are now going to try and get a resolution that would make the Palestinian state an observer-member of the United Nations," Clovis Maksoud, the league's U.S. and U.N. representative, told a news conference.

He was discussing next week's U.N. session in Geneva that was called after the United States denied a visa to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The PLO is currently one of two groups, the other being the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), with permanent observer missions to the U.N. The current status recognises their claim to represent people.

The new designation would rank the PLO among "non-member states," elevating the status of the Palestinian people in the Israeli occupied territories.

Maksoud said there would be no point in trying to make the PLO a full member, because it could not win approval by the United States in the Security Council. But, he added, "maybe this can be a transition to full membership at a later date."

The non-member states are Monaco, North and South Korea, San Marino, Switzerland and the Vatican.

Discussing the Israeli raid Friday at Naameh, 80 kilometres inside Lebanon, Maksoud called it a "pre-emptive strike against the peace option" and timed to coincide with the anniversary of the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

"This is a signal of further oppression yet to come," he said. "This is unprovoked violence by Israel. There has been no provocation. It is an attempt to destabilise Lebanon and to continue its illegal occupation of the south of Lebanon."

Maksoud criticised President Ronald Reagan's statement at his Thursday night news conference that Arafat's statement Wednesday in Stockholm — saying the PLO accepts Israel and rejects terrorism "in all its forms" — was ambiguous.

"We consider that Mr. Arafat's statements have been clear, unequivocal and categorical," he said. "There isn't any ambiguity."

Referring also to the statements made by the Palestine National Council (PNC), he said:

"To say that it still has ambiguity because it does not eschew violence in the occupied territories and that it says that resistance to occupation is not an act of terrorism, that is what everybody else accepts in the world community. ... to include the uprising within the context of terrorism, as the reaction of the United States seems to include, is mind-boggling and unacceptable."

PLO considerations

Zehdi Labib Terzi, U.N.

representative of PLO, said Friday there were legal aspects of the PLO's quest for recognition as a legal entity and the matter was being considered, with a number of options in mind.

Initial drafts of two resolutions prepared for the Geneva session, beginning Tuesday with Arafat due to speak the first day, contained several alternatives.

Once, diplomats said, is that the General Assembly allocate to "the State of Palestine" the same status of the PLO in the U.N. system "together with the accorded rights and privileges."

A PLO observer mission was set up in New York in 1974 and since then has been able to join virtually all U.N. debates without a right to vote.

A separate draft that delegates received Friday would have the General Assembly welcome to outcome of the PNC meeting last month, where the council declared an independent state, as "a positive contribution" towards a peaceful settlement. It also renewed a U.N. call for an international Middle East peace conference.

Virtually all states except Israel support the plan for a conference at which all five permanent members of the Security Council would be represented: the Soviet Union, the United States, China, France and Britain.

A draft resolution for the Geneva meeting would have the General Assembly affirm a number of principles, including a call for "withdrawal of Israel

from all the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories."

It would also affirm guaranteed "arrangements for the security of all states in the region within secured and internationally recognised boundaries, including the State of Palestine."

GCC to lobby EEC

Six Gulf countries are to ask the European Economic Community (EEC) to give stronger support for the newly-declared Palestinian state, a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) official said in remarks published Saturday.

Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Saif Ibn Hashel Al Maskari told Al Bayan newspaper the Palestinian state was generally good, but the council's six members hoped it would take more advanced steps.

"No doubt the GCC states will try through individual and collective contacts to persuade the EEC to adopt the Palestinian position more clearly," Maskari was quoted as saying.

"We will also ask the EEC to try and convince the United States of the need to adopt the new peace initiatives."

Maskari said GCC foreign ministers, due to start arriving in Bahrain Saturday to prepare an agenda for the Dec. 19 summit of the group, would attend the U.N. General Assembly meeting in Geneva.

FBI probes downing of DC-7 in W. Sahara

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has launched a criminal investigation into the downing of a U.S. jet-spraying plane over the Western Sahara in an area of Africa controlled by the Polisario movement.

Meanwhile, an official of the U.S. agency for International Development (USAID) said his view is that whoever shot the plane down "made a mistake" because "these were not military planes."

The FBI is looking for possible violations of federal criminal laws, including one that deals with destruction of U.S. aircraft overseas, FBI spokesman Mill Ahlerich said.

Five U.S. citizens aboard the DC-7 were presumed dead when the craft was shot down Thursday by a surface-to-air missile.

Jay Morris, deputy administrator of AID, told reporters the plane, and another craft accompanying it, were not on a mission for the United States.

Morris said the planes had been en route from Senegal, where they had finished work for AID, to Morocco.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters in Washington, "at this point we still don't know who fired the missile."

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Rival groups clash in Assiut; 100 wounded

ASSIUT (AP) — About 100 students and a police officer were wounded in clashes this week between rival groups of Muslim fundamentalist students, Assiut university and security sources said Saturday.

Nobody was injured seriously, the informants said, but tension remained high among students belonging to an extremist faction known as Al Gamaat Al Islamiya (Muslim Groups) and campus members of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, would not disclose how many arrests were made among the extremists but identified one detainee as a student leader named Saeed Shameel.

In Cairo, police sources said a country wide search was under way for a Muslim extremist suspected of fatally stabbing a senior police officer in the working-class district of 'Ain Shams Thursday.

Security forces have rounded up more than 130 religious extremists in 'Ain Shams since Wednesday, the sources said.

Sixty-one were detained in a concerted police sweep of fundamentalists' homes in the 'Ain Shams area at dawn Wednesday as police followed up a tip about an alleged sabotage conspiracy. Police found two incendiary bombs, many knives and chains and anti-government leaflets.

The Cairo police sources said another 72 extremists were taken in Thursday and Friday, 50 of them just outside an 'Ain Shams police station they attacked with stones and flaming objects.

The clashes at Assiut, a major provincial centre 380 kilometres south of Cairo and a hotbed of Muslim extremist activity for years, occurred Wednesday and Thursday.

They were sparked by an argument between a Muslim Brotherhood student and three students from the extremist Gamaat, who beat up the Brotherhood student, the university and security sources said.

This led to a melee involving around 100 extremists using chains and knives and about half as many stick-wielding Brotherhood followers.

After police Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammad Nadea arrested the extremist leader Shameel, his followers attacked and beat the officer, the sources said.

Followers of the Brotherhood and the Gamaat have been feuding for months over ideological differences and which side should be allowed to deliver sermons in mosques.

Both moderates and extremists want immediate implementation in Egypt of Sharia.

But the Brotherhood advocates doing this peacefully, while the Gamaat is willing to use violence if necessary. The government says more than 90 per cent of Egyptian laws already conform to Sharia and that the rest will be brought in line gradually.

The Muslim Brotherhood officially has been banned since 1954, but in recent years it has been permitted to run in parliamentary elections under the banner of the opposition Socialist Labour Party. The Brotherhood has 35 parliamentarians in the present 458-member People's Assembly.

Extremist and Brotherhood students in Assiut clashed on two consecutive days last July inside a mosque. Thirteen were wounded and police arrested 23.

Farouk Ragheb, a professor and deputy chairman of the Assiut University Club, estimated the number of Gamaat extremists at about 5,000 from an enrollment of more than 70,000 students.

Crown Prince: Security Council accountable

(Continued from page 1)

because of the disengagement and that the focus was now on the Security Council to activate the peace process.

"The international community should understand that Jordan is still a pivotal country in terms of the concept of stability," he explained, pointing out Jordan's demographic role as "a window on the occupied West Bank."

Asked about a possible Israeli mass eviction of Palestinians from the occupied territories to Jordan, the Prince said that transposing the Palestinian population and sending it elsewhere has not worked in the past in the context of 1948 Palestine.

"There is still a sizeable demographic problem which is not part of the Israeli body politic. The problem (for Israel) is likely to continue to grow."

Elections

Asked whether Jordanians should expect parliamentary elections in 1989, the Crown Prince replied affirmatively and said the Ministry of Interior was preparing the electoral law and related regulations. He pointed out that Jordan was "committed to constitutional monarchy," and that "there has not been an objection to elections as such."

Economic measures

Referring to recent economic measures adopted by the government, Prince Hassan said he looked at these measures "in the context of coming of age of the Jordanian economy."

"We moved from the traditional role of a big-brother central government which is activating the economy through govern-

ment tenders and emphasising services into a wider concept of public participation."

"The whole tone of discussion has changed," he said. "It's no longer one of petitioning the central government for projects. There is a maturing of the process where productive sectors are being emphasised. The reasons for the current measures include this process of coming of age, a process of sectoral adjustment."

He added: "I believe strongly that we have the means to make full use of the emphasis on export potential."

Asked whether he agreed that the Kingdom was living beyond its means, he said: "If you look objectively at what we have spent on infrastructure for development purposes by comparison with any developing country in the region, whether oil-producing or non-oil producing, I would be happy to say there had been very little waste."

"If we look at our construction of major projects," he added, "again I think that our track record proves a great degree of efficiency."

He said it was "unfair to blame the economic management for external factors."

"Jordanians have not faced economic hardship over the last three decades," he said. "The devaluation of the dinar was something of a sacred cow, because, effectively, the Jordan dinar has never been devalued. So the very shock of the first-time devaluation and managed float in itself was a shock to the psyche. But if we look from the forties, we see that every currency in the region has faced enormous fluctuations."

The Crown Prince said, however, "I agree that we have to stabilise the dinar at some stage

and I believe this is coming."

In his reference to external factors affecting the Jordanian economy, the Prince said it was obvious that a significant sum of money in Jordanian dinars had been hoarded in the West Bank over 20 years of Israeli occupation. He said the savings in the West Bank were estimated at between JD 250 and JD 300 million.

"If you consider the last year of the intifada, it is obvious that people only survived on available money in the mattress, and in bringing the money out of the mattress, one sees obviously an advantage for the (Israeli) shekel and a dehousing process and a flight from Jordan dinar in different currencies through international dealers to different destinations."

The Crown Prince said the flight from the dinar in the West Bank combined with a sense of uncertainty after the disengagement measures.

He affirmed that in the Jordanian-Palestinian context, "His Majesty has assured people that if these measures are politically justified, it does not mean that it is aimed at the fibre of the relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians, either in the context of Jordanian pluralism or in the context of East-West Bank relations. So I think a lot of mischief has been made out of that particular aspect of it."

He said that "the other side of the story is defence expenditure."

He referred to Jordan's plan to purchase eight Tornado fighter jets for \$500 million, pointing out that in the context of the banking community, this spending is lumped together with borrowing for development purposes, thus putting further strains on the budget.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

15:50 Programme review

16:00 Children programmes

17:05 Football match

18:00 News summary in Arabic

18:05 Local programme

18:45 Children programme

19:00 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Arabic series

21:30 Programme review

21:40 Local programme

22:20 Documentary programme

23:00 News summary in Arabic

23:10 Programme contd.

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Le Monde est a vous

18:30 L'ecole des Fans

19:00 News in French

19:15 Sauvage et Beau

19:30 News in Hebrew

PRAYER TIMES

04:58 Fair

06:21 (Sunrise) Duha

11:29 Dhahr

14:14 'Asr

16:37 Maghrib

17:59 'Isha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrazania Church Tel. 622366

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

It will be partly cloudy with chance of slight local rain and a slight rise on temperature is expected. Winds will be

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625303, Tel. 625443

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 721331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 685526

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

Rabbinic Congregation Tel. 822005

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 812504

YOUTHWESTERLY moderate

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING HONOURS RAWABDEH: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday conferred on Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh a special distinguished medal in recognition of his relentless efforts in developing the capital. The mayor sent a cable to the King voicing gratitude and appreciation for this great honour and pledged continued endeavours to serve the city residents and the country as a whole. (Petra)

ROYAL DECREES: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the appointment of Jordan's Ambassador to Chile Wa'el Tougan as Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Uruguay. Another Royal Decree has also been issued endorsing the decisions of the Shari'a Judicial Council which provides for transferring, appointing, and promoting eleven Islamic chief justices. (Petra)

DECREE ENDORSES ENVOY TO NIGER: A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing the appointment of Jordan's Ambassador to Algeria Awad Abu Ubaid to the post of Jordan's non-resident ambassador to Niger. Another decree has also been issued endorsing the appointment of Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi to the post of director general of the Orphans' Fund. (Petra)

VALID WORK PERMITS: The Ministry of Labour Sunday launches a wide-scale campaign designed to ensure that non-Jordanian workers in the Kingdom hold valid work permits and are employed in fields for which they were originally brought into the country. A ministry statement issued Saturday warned non-Jordanians to abide by the regulations concerning their employment in the country. It said that a JD 30 fine will be imposed on violators for every month they were found to be working here without permits and the employers will be liable to the payment of a JD 50 fine according to the law. The statement said that teams from the Ministry of Labour will be touring factories, companies and other organisations in the course of the campaign. (Petra)

SUPPLY LAW VIOLATORS FINED: The military court has sentenced a number of people to the payment of JD 20 or serving a forty-day prison sentence for violating the supply law number 24 for the year 1974. The military governor endorsed the sentence. (Petra)

ZARQA WATER PROJECTS: The Water Authority office in Zarqa Governorate has finished the first and second stages of the water and sewerage projects in Zarqa and Ruseifah at the cost of JD 12,485,000. (Petra)

SOVIET TEAM VISIT JUST: A delegation representing the Soviet Republic of Dagestan Saturday visited the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and met with the President Dr. Kamel Ajlouni who explained the university's activities and role in developing the society. The delegation, then, toured various university departments and watch a documentary film on the university. (Petra)

COOPERATION WITH SOVIET UNION: Minister of Supply Abdul Salam Kanaan Saturday voiced Jordan's desire to promote its cooperation with the Soviet Union in the field of cooperatives, and spoke in detail about the Kingdom's cooperative organisations in agriculture and food industries, at a meeting with a Soviet official now on a visit to Jordan. The official, Mr. Georgi Dunkin, heads a cooperative organisation in charge of agricultural and industrial complexes in the Soviet Union. The minister briefed the visitor on the Kingdom's supply policy and the ministry's policy to make available sufficient food supplies in the country for at least six months. He also spoke about the pricing system in Jordan and the ministry's control of basic food commodities. (Petra)

French engineers reap rewards by trip to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A group of 80 French engineers of different specialisations arrived here Saturday on a several-day visit of the Kingdom's archaeological sites and places of interest, and to study the country's environment as well as traditional architecture and building designs. The visit was organised by a French tourist firm within an incentive tourism programme agreed on with the Ministry of Tourism and a local tourist and travel agency.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that as of the beginning of 1989, the French firm will organise monthly trips to Jordan, bringing in selected groups of professionals such as doctors, engineers, economists and others to study social and economic life in the Kingdom. Tourism Minister Zuhair Ajlouni welcomed the group and stressed that the ministry will provide them with all facilities to help them study Jordan's places of interest and the country's economic and social development.

In September, it was announced that at least 840 tourists from France will be arriving this winter and next summer in Jordan on trips organised within the incentive tourism programme.

Incentive trips, usually paid for by the employers, are arranged as a reward to employees having performed well in certain jobs, especially in sales.

The first batch of such groups, composed of French doctors arrived here between September and November, sent by the French pharmaceutical company Theropix, and handled by Lawrence Tours. Another group, handled by International Traders, included West German travellers sent to Jordan by the Daimler Benz company in Hamburg.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition by eight Jordanian artists at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in which more than 69 paintings are on display.
- ★ An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Latif Itawi at Al Wasiti Gallery for plastic art — 6:00 p.m.
- ★ An art exhibition by Friends of Plastic Art in Gulf countries at the National Gallery.
- ★ The youth's art exhibition which displays 101 paintings showing the different aspects of social life in Jordan at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of ceramics by Iraqi artist Barwin Al Sarraf at Petra Bank Hall.
- ★ The Moldavian public art exhibition, which includes handicrafts, embroideries, and costumes representing the Moldavian folklore, at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of posters that show the dangers of AIDS at Al Raed Al Arabi School.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Ya 'Anter" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture (in Arabic) at the Yarmouk University by Dr. Hartmut Bobzin on the beginning of Western Arabic studies.

FILM

- ★ A feature film entitled "An American in Paris" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ The annual concert of the Young Women Christian Association community choir at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

UNESCO seminar seeks transfer of modern technology to Arab World

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — Organisation and management of scientific and technological research work and the transfer of modern technology to the Arab World are the main themes of a five-day seminar which was opened in Amman Saturday by the Amman-based United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

Delegates representing 17 Arab countries and others representing organisations concerned with the development of science and technology, are taking part in the seminar which will review working papers and discuss coordination of work by scientific research centres in the Arab World for the benefit of pan-Arab development. A UNESCO representative delivered a speech in which, he said the seminar opens the way for those in charge of their countries' research programmes to exchange views on science and technology and pave the way for cooperation in this field.

Dr. Othman Yazid said that the seminar comes at a time when the Arab states are confronting numerous challenges represented by the great advances in science and technology in the industrialised nations, which is bound to affect their development programmes.

"There is need for greater efforts by Arab countries to acquire training in technology and promote and step up research work that can be applied in various economic and social fields," Yazid said in his speech. He said Arab endeavour in the field of technology is still very poor, compared to industrialised nations, and it is hoped that through this seminar the Arab specialists will join forces to contribute to the Arab World's progress.

The meeting will examine means of developing and organising administration of training, the use of equipment and the creation of new units related to science and technology and their usefulness in serving development. Another topic will be a proposal to create a green belt for North African Arab countries, UNESCO officials said. They added that working papers discussing experiments in research work conducted in Jordan, Egypt, Somalia and Saudi Arabia will be reviewed at the meetings.

The seminar ended by issuing recommendations that in part called on governments and the public to encourage the use of special techniques that can ensure better financial and administrative management of water resources.

The minister told the seminar, attended by Arab countries, Pakistan and Afghanistan, that nearly 99 per cent of the Kingdom's urban population was receiving water from networks of pipes, and nearly 70 per cent have their homes linked to sewerage systems.

The seminar ended by issuing recommendations that in part called on governments and the public to encourage the use of special techniques that can ensure better financial and administrative management of water resources.

Hindawi opens 3 new schools in Irbid area

IRBID (Petra) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi Saturday visited Irbid Governorate where he opened three schools and met with educationalists, teachers and school supervisors to discuss educational matters in their regions.

One of the new schools was Al Husn Vocational Training School for Girls, which seats 247 students, providing training in nursing, commercial and business studies, dress making and hairdressing.

The other schools were one for commercial and business training for girls and the other a secondary school for boys in Irbid.

Hindawi later attended a cultural and artistic rally and distributed cups to winners in extracurricular activity.

The cost of the three schools was estimated at more than JD 1 million.

Following the opening ceremonies, the minister met with the teachers and educational supervisors at the Zaid Ibn Al Khattab School and spoke in detail on the objectives of the new educational development scheme now being carried out by the Ministry of Education, in implementation of the first national educational conference held in Amman last year.

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WHO urges development strategies to consider environment constraints

By Rania Atallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A regional conference on development and its effect on the environment and health got underway Sunday with a call by the World Health Organisation (WHO) representative on all those involved in defining and implementing national development strategies to seriously consider environmental constraints which, he said, were "critical" to the sustained development of many countries.

The WHO regional director for the eastern Mediterranean region, Hussein Gezaury, said environmental health programmes can be properly assessed if they are considered part of the national development strategies. "It is unfortunate, but a fact, that much of the development that has taken place in the industrialised nations has had a damaging effect on the environment," Gezaury said at the opening of the four-day conference which was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The conference, organised by WHO's Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), in cooperation with the Ministry of Health, will address immediate problems, as well as longer term issues that influence the strategy and policy-planning in countries of the region.

Twenty eight working papers will be presented dealing with development and public health, rural and urban development, appropriate technologies for de-

velopment and implications for the environment and health, appropriate technologies for water supply and sanitation and their implementation, human resources development in environmental health, inter-sectoral collaboration in environmental protection, in addition to development strategies for the region.

Gezaury urged conference participants to make use of the experiences of others and to adopt development strategies that are sound and sustainable in all respects: economically, socially and environmentally.

Since it was established in 1985, CEHA has concentrated on water supply and sanitation and had emphasised training in preventive maintenance, the operation of plants for water and wastewater treatment, as well as the appropriate low cost technologies for that sector, Gezaury said.

A regional information exchange network established by CEHA is to facilitate the rapid dissemination of experience, ex-

perience and innovation on environmental health matters in the region, he added.

The network, he noted, had been developed with the aid of funding from the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa, Canada.

Also addressing the conference's opening session was Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh who noted that access to pure water constitutes an integral part of primary health care.

Hamzeh also noted that countries in the region have recently started to consider noise pollution as another form of environmental pollution, which, he said, affects factory workers and can gradually lead to deafness.

In order to discuss the concept of health in a comprehensive way, Hamzeh said, one has to tackle the issue of the environment in which one lives. "Pollution knows no geographic or political boundaries," he commented.

Fifty seven experts from 20 countries in the region are taking part in the conference.

Following the opening of the conference, Hamzeh inaugurated CEHA's new premises in Um Uthaina.

More than 20 countries make use of the centre's resources, which include a library, a documentation unit, as well as a laboratory.

WHO member countries in the region will meet Monday to discuss means of combining primary health care with mother and child care.

Almost all premises for industries filled in Sahab

AMMAN (J.T.) — All premises allocated for industries at the Sahab Industrial City (SIC) with the exception of one single building have been taken by new industries registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade over the past year, according to an announcement Saturday.

The announcement by the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC), said that the total capital to be used in the new industries is estimated at JD 20 million.

JIEC Director General Dr. Faysal Suheimat said that these include 10 food industries, 13 engineering and electrical industries, four plastic and rubber plants, eight plants for chemicals and the rest include factories for the manufacture of carpets, kitchens, printing paper and building materials. These industries are expected to create 20,000 jobs, Suheimat noted.

He said the JIEC is currently studying applications by other industries to take up space in the second phase of the SIC which will be ready by the end of the coming month, and nearly 50 per cent of the premises in the second

stage have already been taken up. According to Suheimat, the recent increase in the number of new investors and entrepreneurs is due to a number of reasons which include: tax incentives; the cancellation of the industrial licence; easy procedures; protection given to local industries; the recent floating of the dinar enabling Jordanian products to compete with those from other countries on the international markets; the reduction by 30 per cent of rent on industrial buildings within the SIC; the availability of basic services which are offered at nominal

prices, the presence of a vocational training centre at the city and other services such as banks, maintenance workshops, security and civil defence services.

Faysal said that the corporation was now studying the prospect of building additional premises to open the way for more industries at the site.

Faysal added that the presence of a permanent industrial fair in Jordan and the organisation of industrial fairs in Arab countries were instrumental in promoting industrialists and investors to embark on the new projects.

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في مخازن

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1974

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Reassuring words

IN HIS interview with the Al Siyassah Kuwaiti daily last week His Majesty King Hussein portrayed to the Arab World several positive and happy projections about the overall state of Arab affairs. Foremost among these promising forecasts is His Majesty's prediction that next spring will bring forth a positive and tangible movement in the Middle East conflict. As all the Arab World and peace loving nations of the world are thirsty for some good news about the fate of the Palestinian question, which had eluded solution for more than four decades, the words of encouragement by King Hussein on this score are tantamount to the right antidotes to defeatism and despair that Israeli leaders try to permeate the Middle East region with.

What is also most gratifying is that the feeling of hope and optimism that the King has passed on to the Arab World is not confined to the Palestinian situation. Equally important is his call for a regional Arab understanding and entity composed of Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Yemen and other interested Arab states to operate and function under the aegis of the Arab League greater umbrella and in parallel with the other sub-regional Arab groupings like the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Geographic considerations and the peculiarities of the three possible major sub-groupings of Arab states would indeed call for the establishment of such sub-regional Arab common economic markets provided they aim for an overall Arab unity. In other words, any such sub-regional Arab groupings would not and should not be construed as the anti-these of Arab unity, which shall always be the ultimate Arab objective.

In the context of inter-Arab relations and the urgent need to put them on the right course, the King also wisely called for institutionalising Arab summits in order to maintain the momentum of Arab harmony and coordination. Any such periodic Arab summits on a regular basis would go a long way to safeguard the achievements of any given Arab summit and make sure that the vigour and sense of commitment realised in any Arab summit would remain vibrant and relevant. And certainly, Arab summits would remain lacking and incomplete as long as Egypt, the heart and soul of the Arab World, remains outside the orbit of the highest inter-Arab contacts and cooperation.

On the local scene the King's answers were equally reassuring. There is no doubt that the financial and economic sectors in the Jordanian society have received such assurances with the greatest degree of welcome. And now that Jordanians and Jordan's partners in trade and commerce can feel reassured that the Jordanian currency has stabilised along a reasonable and sound plateau and that the Jordanian economy is basically sound and firm, the fiscal and economic future of our country should make a turn for the better.

Last but not least, the King reassured the country that political stability and continuity considerations at these critical times call for the continuation of the government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. This is most welcome news which will lend additional support to the overall stability of the country in these trying times. As the year 1988 approaches its end and we are about to begin a new year the reassuring words of His Majesty King Hussein are the kind of news that all Jordanians have been yearning for.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

TWO Arabic dailies on Saturday wrote editorials on King Hussein's statements to the Kuwaiti Al Siyassah Arabic daily and the British Broadcasting Corporation concerning the situation in the occupied Arab lands at the start of the second year of the Palestinian uprising. Now that the PLO has accepted U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, and the Palestinians shown their determination to regain their rights and their homeland, the Arab countries ought to back them with all their might, Al Ra'i daily said. A joint Arab action as proposed by King Hussein and the formation of three Arab economic and political blocs operating within the framework of the Arab League, said the paper, should form a deterrent to Israel's aggression and put an end to its arrogance. If the Arabs in the Orient are united, they are bound to form a formidable military force, capable of confronting Israel's ambitious and aggressive designs and restoring the usurped Arab rights, the paper added. The King, the paper noted, has called for the return of Egypt to the Arab fold as a first step in this pan-Arab enterprise; and this is essential if the Arabs are determined to back their Palestinian brothers in their quest for freedom and peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Saturday wonders what the Palestinian people and their leadership can do to meet the U.S. halfway and make Washington talk to them on their plight. Tareq Masarweh says that Washington should stop demanding further compromises from the PLO which has already renounced terrorism and accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338; and should deal with the situation realistically. What else could be demanded from a people who lost their land now occupied by invaders? asks the writer. He criticises U.S. demands that Arafat should shave his beard, don a civilian outfit and explicitly announce his recognition of Israel all for the sake of opening the way for a mere talk with Washington over the Palestine issue. Masarweh says that the Palestinians have been able to prove their stand and create an entity of their own; and all they require now is recognition of their rights.

Al Dustour daily laid emphasis on the unique relationship between the Palestinian and the Jordanian people and said that it is now stronger than at any time in the past. This relationship is being bolstered by Jordan's efforts spearheaded by King Hussein who described the uprising of the Palestinians as a revolt, manifesting the oppressed people's determination to hold on to their land and their rights, the paper pointed out. The paper echoed the King's praise of the heroic people of Palestine who are now waging a struggle for freedom and an end to injustice, and reiterated the need on the part of all Arabs to lend further backing for the Palestinians. Jordan's severing of legal ties with the West Bank, said the paper, opened the way for an escalation of Palestinian struggle and created an opportune atmosphere for a fruitful relationship between the two sides to serve as a model for Arab unity in the future.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on the King's statement to the British Broadcasting Corporation in which the King called the Palestinian uprising as a phenomenon, demonstrating a great degree of awareness and pursuit for rights and a resolve to confront unacceptable circumstances. The paper said that the Arab masses are delighted at the King's continued efforts to back the Palestinians and to rally Arab ranks in that direction and echoed the King's description of the uprising in the occupied Arab land as heroic and courageous in the face of the danger that threatens all the Arab people.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Healthy future for the dinar

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

SINCE the Jordan dinar was officially floated at mid October, its exchange rate has declined to the current realistic level which was determined freely by supply and demand. As this decline took place in the market under the worst expectations, nervousness and abrupt measures, there is no reason to expect further decline, because circumstances, nerves, and expectations could not become worse and might become much better.

If the price of the dollar remained in the domain of 520 fils, the overall depreciation of the dinar would be 27 per cent of its previous value when the dollar was selling at 380 fils. This means that the cost of imported commodities should rise by 37 per cent.

The difference between the 27 per cent decline rate of the dinar and the 37 per cent rise in prices of imported goods has resulted from the fact that the decline is expressed in terms of previous value of the dinar, while the rise in prices is expressed in terms of current value of the local currency. To illustrate this we point out that the decline of a certain currency by 10 per cent would result in the rise of other currencies by 11 per cent. The rise of the exchange rate of a currency by 50 per cent would reduce the price of other currencies by 33 per cent.

It is most likely that the prices of domestic goods and services such as wages, rents and vegetables will remain constant in the short term, and that the prices of local products will rise only in proportion to the imported contents of these products, and that the overall imported contents of the aggregate demand will follow year and to 33 per cent in the second year. Under these

assumptions we can conclude that the inflation rate in Jordan will be in the order of 15 per cent.

However this figure does not represent a continuing trend of inflation, because it is a one-time-shift of price levels, unlike inflation resulting from a demand pull or cost push which goes on and on.

Beside the one time jump of prices of 15 per cent which will occur in the last days of 1988, the expected annual inflation rate will not exceed 4 per cent. This conclusion is very important due to its impact on interest rate during 1989.

In theory, the interest rate should be influenced by inflation rate, because it is the normal function of interest to cover the expected inflation rate plus a net real return of 2 to 3 per cent.

Interest rate is also connected to expectations over exchange rate. If the market expected that a given currency will decline against a second currency, then the rate of interest on the first currency should rise to compensate for the expected decline in its exchange rate, otherwise all speculators will shift from the first currency to the other.

In the case of Jordan the Central Bank (CBJ) used to fix the interest rate on the dinar irrespective of the fact that inflation rate between 1975 and 1982 in Jordan was higher than in industrial countries. The CBJ also continued to fix the interest rate after 1982 despite the fact that the outlook of the dinar's exchange rate was on the negative side until October 1988. The natural result of this policy was the weakening of the dinar in competing with other

currencies as a store of value. The capital flight was the logical response of the people.

During that time I repeatedly warned that the real interest rate of the dinar was in fact negative all through 1986, 1987 and 1988, but other economists were putting pressure on the CBJ to reduce interest rate even further, arguing that the real interest rate in Jordan was too high for investors, while ignoring the exchange rate factor.

Finally the interest rate was floated, but this step did not cause the expected rise. This calls on the CBJ to intervene in the market towards higher interest rate, to make the dinar a feasible saving currency.

The inflation rate of 15 per cent, as calculated above, will not influence interest rate, because the dominating factor is the expected decline of the purchasing power of the currency. A depositor does not expect the interest rate to compensate for the loss that already took place, but would expect it to cover the expected decline in exchange rate and relative inflation rate in the coming period.

We do expect interest rates to rise gradually, but we believe that the currently relative low interest rate reflects the reasonable expectations of the market that the exchange rate of the dinar is not going to decline sharply in the future, and that the future inflation rate will be rather low. Those who accepted 8 to 9 per cent interest rate on their dinar's have actually given a vote of confidence in the dinar's future exchange and inflation rates.

Yitzhak Shamir's ideological heritage

By Israel Shahak

A MISTAKE committed by nearly all commentators who write about Israeli affairs is to ignore the ideologies held by the various groups in Israeli politics and society. It is usually assumed, especially by the so-called "impartial" commentators, that the Israelis, including their politicians, are only influenced either by "care for Israel's security" and similar "positive" considerations, or by dictates from Washington. While Israeli politicians are influenced by many political and economic factors, most of them also have a deep belief in certain principles, even if some of these are corrupt or murderous or both.

What is more, the majority of Israeli Jewish society is still quite conservative in its basic attitudes, fixed in the period before 1948, when the world and especially Eastern and Central Europe from where the founders of this society came, or by which they were strongly influenced, was intensely ideological. To this we should add the influence of Judaism and especially of the Bible, surely a very ideological book! For all those reasons, it is my opinion that a great mistake to ignore the ideologies of the Israeli parties, which are stronger on the Right than in other parts of the political spectrum and are especially strong among the former members of the terrorist movements of the 40s, 50s (of Begin) and Lehi (the Stern Gang) to which Yitzhak Shamir belonged and where, by becoming one of its three leaders, he first arose to political prominence.

Shamir has since remained true to the basic principles which guided him then, seasoned with a dose of the political pragmatism which he learned from Ben Gurion during his 16 years in Mosad. Which means that he does not believe now, as he did 40 years ago, that the ultimate aims in which he believes can be realised quickly by the exclusive use of terror; but he does believe they can be realised using a whole battery of different means towards the same aim, only more slowly. To give him his due, he has never pretended otherwise:

he has never repudiated even in one word the ideals and the aims of Lehi and of its first leader and ideologue Avraham Stern.

The formation of Lehi

We have to begin with the split of Lehi from the parent organisation in 1939-1940, caused by the outbreak of World War II. Although the original, united Etzel carried out unprincipled attacks on the civilian Palestinian population both in the 30s and in 1947-1948, as well as in 1944-1948 on the British forces, it is important to emphasise that it had some inhibitions. It held back from attacks on British forces until 1944 because of the Nazi danger, and for a short time even made an alliance with them, and it avoided completely indiscriminate terror. Lehi from the beginning was founded as an organisation absolutely devoid of all scruples in its relation to everyone.

The well known (at least in Israel) attempt to form an alliance with Hitler, based, as Lehi wrote to him in a servile letter, on ideological similarities, is merely one of those distinguishing features. We should add the assassination of politicians, not only Britons like Lord Moyne in 1944, but also of the U.N. mediator Count Bernadotte in 1948, which is being justified even now by his murderers in that "we judged him to be a harmful person" and about which Shamir, according to some of the organisers, at least knew. It is also important to realise that most of Lehi's surviving members, including Shamir, remain intensely devoted to their past ideology and cultivate it by common meetings, memorials, books and other publications. I wish therefore to describe in short what that ideology was and is so that it can be seen that the opinions and may be even the actions of Shamir are influenced by this ideology.

Lehi's ideology

The aims of Lehi were heavily influenced by traditional Jewish attitudes, while Etzel, true to the heritage of Zeev Jabotinsky, was a consciously secular movement.



even when, as in the case of Begin, its leaders were religious themselves. This can be shown by an analysis of the principles of Lehi, as formulated by Stern and called by him "The Renaissance Principles" (it is not by chance that the present extremist party, Tehiya, adopted the same name. Tehiya means in Hebrew "The Renaissance"). Those principles are still being published today, and between them and the principles of Etzel, and subsequently of Herut, there is an enormous difference both in the actual content, and in the basic ideological approach.

Let us first take the question of the land claimed as belonging by right to the Jewish state. Only a short time ago when the Liberal party merged with Herut to form Likud, the old Herut hymn, written by Jabotinsky, was solemnly sung at this ceremonial occasion. Its crucial lines are: "Jordan river has two banks. One belongs to us and so does the other! In contrast to this, Lehi principles lay explicit claim to the whole area between the Nile and the Euphrates, that is including all Lebanon and most of Syria and of course Sinai too. There is every reason to assume that when Shamir, even as Begin's foreign minister, refused either to vote in the Knesset for the Camp David agreements or to speak in their favour, he did so because of his loyalty to those principles and his belief that they may yet be realised.

It is more important to emphasise the even greater difference in the reasons given by the two movements for claiming those

borders. From Jabotinsky to Begin the reasons were purely secular: the decisions of the British government as confirmed by the League of Nations in the terms of the British Mandate. Lehi's reasoning is explicitly religious: because God said so in the Bible. It is important to emphasise that neither Begin nor even Sharon ever claimed such territories or gave such explanations for what they did claim. What is more, from Jabotinsky to Begin, their movement, for all its militarism, regarded war as only one of the means to achieve its end. In Lehi's principles war appears as the only and exclusive means of achieving this aim, and the reason for this is "historical": that the Jews of the Bible conquered their land by the sword. Indeed, just as in other ideologies of that time, war appears in Lehi principles as a permanent situation: the ninth principle says simply: "an eternal war with all those who, like Satan, oppose the Aim."

Attitudes to the Arabs

Even more important are two further differences. The classical approach of the Revisionist movement to the Arabs is an absolute denial of their national right in the area claimed for the Jewish state, coupled with the theoretically absolute recognition of their individual rights. No doubt the last was conspicuous by its violation, especially to those who are not Israeli citizens; but let us not forget that Herut always welcomed Arab members on equal terms, as Likud does now, while Tehiya, which truly embodies Lehi's principles, open-

ly excludes them "on principle."

Hypocrisy is important politically to some extent, however repulsive it is to persons of principle, and that maxim of La Rochefoucauld that "hypocrisy is the tax which vice pays to virtue" is relevant; when that tax is not paid any more the situation becomes very much worse than when it is. Accordingly, the principles of Lehi explicitly advocate what is called now "transfer," and what they call "an exchange of the population," that is a complete removal of all Arabs from not only Palestine and Jordan but from Lebanon and Syria as well. In addition, the Revisionist movement assumed, after its demands were met, a relation of equality, or sometimes of indifference, with the remaining Arab people of the Middle East.

Lehi wants much more: that the very much larger Jewish state, will in addition dominate not only "the East" (not just the Middle East) but the "shores of the Mediterranean." How relevant those ideas are now can be seen from the following illuminating incident which happened in August. After Rabbi Ariel, an important advocate of similar ideas, published an atlas, which claims for the Jewish state, in addition to land borders even greater than those mentioned above, all the islands of the Mediterranean, he was received in the prime minister's office with many expressions of support.

Building the 'Temple'

The most important and at the same time the most potentially explosive of Lehi's principles is the last, No. 18. It simply proposes the building of the Temple "as a sign of total Redemption." There are many signs in recent months that Shamir considers this a real possibility, and that he encourages what no other Israeli prime minister did before him.

While all former prime ministers studiously ignored the several Israeli organisations which demand the building of the Temple, Shamir recently with the most dangerous of them, one which has already prepared the sacred robes of the High Priest in

which he will offer sacrifice, and expressed his sympathy and support. We could add to this many of his recent declarations, not only the one in which the Palestinians were compared to grasshoppers, which was one of the more innocuous. More important was his declaration that the infidelity is merely the continuation of the eternal war which has run from the time of the Hasmoneans (166BC) until now without interruption.

Let me remind readers that the lack of attention to Begin's declarations, which were thought to be "only rhetoric" was one of the important reasons why so many were surprised by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and its extent in 1982. People who do not take Shamir's ideology seriously may have a yet greater surprise awaiting them.

Misleading comparisons

Israeli Jewish society has a strong ideological component in its nature, and in this it is much closer to the other Middle Eastern countries than most of the "experts" assume. The comparison of Israel as it is at present with a Western country can be very misleading, in spite of its modern technology, parties, elections to a parliament, etc. But a comparison to 17th century England, which also had elections to a parliament, or even better to Scotland of the same period, can be much more illuminating. No one will now claim that the actual course of events either in 17th century Britain, or to take a better example in Iran of our times, can be understood without considering also the ideological component together with all the other political factors.

In the case of Israel the interaction of extreme ideology with the state's military power can be disastrous, especially if the ideology is not well known in advance. But knowledge of all the possibilities, including the influence of extreme ideology, actually diminishes the probability of their occurrence, as the proverb says: forewarned is forearmed — Middle East International, London.

For the starving Sudanese, tears aren't enough

By Jonathan Power

CAIRO — Members of Margaret Thatcher's government, for which only real men need apply, are not known to cry in public. But a few days ago, one of her rising younger stars, Christopher Patten, the minister for overseas development, was reduced to tears when describing what he'd just seen at Ethiopian refugee camps crammed with starving migrants from neighbouring Sudan.

The war in Sudan has reached such murderous proportions that it is now said to be more calamitous than the Ethiopian famine of 1965. It is, perhaps, Africa's worst disaster in centuries.

Patten talked of families "tackling back and forth across Sudan, trying to avoid armed Muslim tribes, the Sudan Army or marauding gangs, and living off leaves, berries, nuts or roots they had grubbed up." Also just back from Ethiopia, Bob Geldof, the pop singer and Africa fund-raiser extraordinaire, told of asking a small boy how he had found his way across almost 500 kilometres of desert to a refugee camp. "I just followed the trail of bodies," the boy replied.

When drought was the culprit, as it was in 1983, the international community could move heaven and earth to provide aid and succor, raising hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars for both Ethiopia and Sudan. But fratricidal war is another matter. Where does it end, and where do we begin?

The war between the Muslim north, seat of the government, and the Christian and animist south has been raging on and off for 30 years. And each act of aid by outsiders merely seems to enable the combatants to live to fight another day. The last two years have seen the war worsen dramatically, with each side using the weapon of starvation.

After the despotic Jaafar Numeiri was deposed in April 1985, and elections the following spring, Sadek Mahdi became prime minister. He is the Oxford educated great grandson of Mohammed Ahmed Mahdi, the Muslim leader of the 1880s who defeated General Charles Gordon in the historic encounter at Khartoum that changed the political map of the Sudan and Egypt. But, ironically, the liberal, enlightened Sadek Mahdi may be brought down by the fundamentalist forces his ancestor unleashed.

Mahdi campaigned strongly against the Islamic fervor of the Numeiri government, in particular the revival of sharia, or Islamic law. Yet, in office, he has given the impression of being constantly on the defensive against the political onslaught of the National Islamic Front, the

third largest party in his coalition government.

The leader of the southern guerrillas, the American educated John Garang of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, is not easy to deal with, either. The guerrillas have tried to shoot down relief flights — incredibly a missile bounced off one UNICEF plane and exploded in the air — and attacked relief convoys. Garang, who seems not to care if his people starve while hoping that anarchy will play into his hands, has been able to isolate the government garrison towns, depriving them of food. In return, the government has blocked relief supplies from reaching the tribes in the countryside, and is thought by many southerners as welcoming the war as a way of depopulating the troublesome region. Intermittently, the United Nations, the Red Cross and the U.S. Agency for International Development get permission from one side or the other, or, occasionally, from both, to bring in supplies. But outsiders seem to have less and less influence.

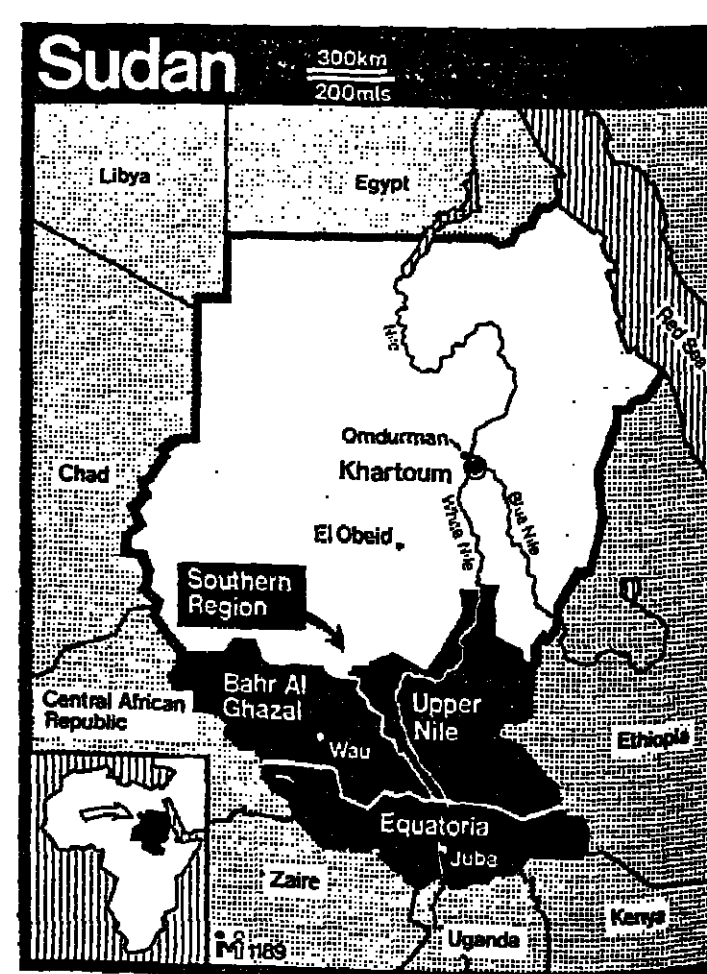
Yet if ever there was the time for the big push this is it. After floods, drought and war, the devastation is all but complete. Patten reckons that one out of every two people in the south has been killed. Thousands of children have died. More than 300,000

walking skeletons have crossed into Ethiopia. The people have had enough.

Recently, in an Egyptian-brokered initiative, representatives of Garang and the Democratic Unionist Party, second largest in the coalition government, hammered out a peace accord that called for a constitutional conference and suspending Islamic law. Mahdi's party, Umma, has welcomed it but the National Islamic Front is strongly opposed. Since hundreds of Muslim militants in Khartoum have attacked black southerners with stones, clubs and iron bars, shouting, "No peace without Islam."

The wisps of compromise hang uncertainly in the air, but will need the efforts of everyone to bring them to earth. This means not just Washington, but the whole of the West and Moscow, too. It means Arab neighbours, like Egypt and Saudi Arabia. And it means other members of the Organisation of African Unity, using their influence as they have so successfully in the recent peace agreement for Angola and Namibia.

The mass starvation in Sudan is one of the great human tragedies of the 20th century. "The damned," wrote Eugene O'Neill, "don't cry." But we must weep for them — and struggle, too — International Herald Tribune.



Sex change shocks conservative society

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Failure on farm supports spells uncertain future

MONTREAL (AP) — Negotiators' failure to bridge the deep divide between the United States and the European Community (EC) over agricultural subsidies means an uncertain future for farmers and for the prospects of free trade.

"We are staring down the barrel of an all-out agricultural trade war," predicted Australia's minister of trade negotiations, Michael Duffy.

Other predictions were not as stark, but few were optimistic about the repercussions of the failure at Montreal.

Ministers from 90 nations, coming together to provide political backing for an ambitious overhaul of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), sought for six days to reconcile the two trading giants to no avail.

The gathering ended with Argentina and the 12-nation EC agreeing to disagree — and other exporting countries caught in the middle.

To protest the impasse, large agricultural exporters such as Argentina led a revolt that resulted in a decision to freeze all progress made on other trade matters at the talks until the trading giants reached agreement on subsidies.

A compromise reached in late night caucusing provides for another stab to be made at resolving the farm support debate at an April meeting in Geneva.

In the meantime, the subsidy war between the United States and the Europeans could easily escalate, and other farm exporters are bitter.

"This meeting has been a disappointment," said Duffy.

Australia leads the Cairns Group, 13 agricultural exporters from the developed and developing world who do not subsidise their farm exports. The heavy subsidies provided by the United States and the EC to their own farmers make it hard for Cairns members to compete.

The United States has estimated that farm subsidies worldwide cost governments and taxpayers some \$200 billion a year. U.S. support for its farmers, estimated to number between 300,000 and 2.5 million by differing counts, has dropped from some \$27 billion in 1987 to a projected \$13 billion for fiscal year 1989.

The EC says it would like to reduce subsidies, but cannot eliminate them altogether because of pressure from the rural sector to maintain the small-farm way of life. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the 12 nations is an important component of the alliance.

The United States government, under pressure from Congress and its farm constituency, contends that the subsidisation must end once and for all because it distorts international trade.

"The agriculture problems are getting worse," said chief U.S. negotiator Clayton Yeutter, sum-

ming up the Montreal talks. "We have to get to the heart of the problem," he said. Short-term measures such as the freeze on subsidies proposed by the Cairns Group and the EC are not the answer, he said.

One answer threatened by combative members of Congress is to increase farm supports to keep American farmers competitive with their European rivals.

A delegation of senior members of the House and Senate agriculture committees came to Montreal to underscore the threat that authors of a planned 1990 farm would be sorely tempted.

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Richard Lyng had a similar assessment. "We may need an aggressive export sales policy" to compete, he told reporters after the talks broke down.

For the smaller agricultural exporters, the problems of subsidies are even worse.

It's a vicious circle: Their farm exports are unable to compete on world markets and cannot earn sufficient foreign currency to service the governments' heavy debts to the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. And so the debts mount.

"What we put in one pocket immediately has to go out of the other pocket to pay our creditors," said one African negotiator here.

The poorer countries were also hoping that settlement of the farm subsidy fight would open the door to negotiations on other parts of a proposed farm package, which would include increasing their market access in developing nations. This too fell by the wayside.

Yeutter said he was confident the subsidy problem could be resolved at the April meeting, saying the stakes were too high for failure.

The airing given to the dispute at the talks here will yield "dramatic dividends" at the next session, he predicted.

But mustering the political will to make concessions eluded ministers in Montreal, and there was little indication that what was sown in Montreal could be reaped in Geneva.

Study predicts oil prices to top \$30 during '90s

DALLAS, Texas (AP) — A study by two U.S. Federal Reserve Bank (Fed) economists predicts increasing worldwide demand for oil will push OPEC countries to full capacity and prices above \$30 a barrel during the 1990s.

But after adjusting for inflation, the higher price level will still amount to only 60 per cent to 80 per cent of the peak price of oil reached in 1981, according to the study by economists Stephen Brown and Keith Phillips of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

The economists predicted that the 1990s will be a decade of slower economic growth in the United States because of higher oil prices.

"It won't be as bad as the '70s where we saw sharp price increases that really nailed the economy," Brown said. "But people planning on building big cars in the next decade may be headed in the wrong direction."

Brown and Phillips contend that falling demand for oil in the 1980s has had more to do with the collapse in oil prices than the disarray in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Current price levels encourage consumption and discourage the development of alternative resources or conservation efforts. In the next decade, the growth of world economies will continue to spur demand and pressure prices higher, the economists suggest.

In the United States alone, Brown and Phillips said, oil consumption will increase between 2.1 per cent and 9.5 per cent annually.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday Dec. 10, 1988 Central Bank official rates					
Buy	Sell	Japanese yen (for 100)	382.3	384.2	
U.S. dollar	469.0	Dutch guilder	239.0	240.2	
Pound Sterling	865.7	Swedish crown	78.2	78.2	
Deutschemark	200.0	Italian lira (for 100)	36.5	36.7	
Swiss franc	320.1	Belgian franc (for 10)	128.8	129.4	
French franc	79.0				

Japanese companies to quit S. Africa

TOKYO (AP) — A major Japanese electronics firm plans to close its offices in South Africa, another is phasing out dealings, and an automaker is reducing sales to the country in recognition of the global protest against its policy of apartheid, officials have said.

Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. will close its two-man office in Johannesburg early next year to join the world protest against

apartheid, or racial segregation, in South Africa, a company official said.

Matsushita, whose products are known by the brand names "Panasonic," "Technics," or "National," has exported air conditioners, microwave ovens and video tape recorders and other electronics products through its local offices, said the official, who requested anonymity. He refused to provide the company's

trade volume with South Africa.

Sanyo Electric Co., another major Japanese electronics maker, is considering closing its one-man office in South Africa, a company official said.

Sanyo, which began exporting electronics products to South Africa in 1959, will also cut its trading volume with South Africa.

Meanwhile, an official of Nissan Motor Co. said the number of cars the company exported to South Africa has been halved in recent years to some 30,000 vehicles a year.

Latin America has chance to take initiative on debt

SAO PAULO, Brazil (R) — Latin America has the chance to take the lead in resolving the debt problem at a weekend meeting of finance ministers.

The ministers of seven nations, including the region's three big-

gest debtors Brazil, Mexico and Argentina, meet in Rio de Janeiro Sunday and Monday to discuss how to reduce Latin America's \$435 billion debt burden.

Amid fears that Latin Amer-

ican democracies may crumble under the weight of debt, poverty and political instability, analysts believe there are real prospects for cutting repayments.

Harvard University economist Jeffrey Sachs, writing in Friday's Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper, said that creditor nations had put forward most of the initiatives during the six-year-old debt crisis.

"This weekend the Latin American democracies will finally be able to... affirm a new international leadership on behalf of their disheartened citizens," he said.

"The time has arrived for the Latin American side to present serious, professional and detailed proposals which can be used as a basis for discussions and multi-lateral negotiations, government to government," he added.

A senior Brazilian finance ministry official, Sergio Amaral, told Reuters that the Latin American proposals would be drafted "in a cooperative spirit and not one of confrontation."

He said the seven debtors — the so-called Rio Club of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela — "have no intention of adopting unilateral measures."

The Rio meeting will open less than a week after the end of the military revolt in Argentina, which President Raul Alfonsín attributed partly to the nation's economic troubles.

But buoyed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's speech to the United Nations last Wednesday, Latin American politicians feel that things are beginning to go their way.

Gorbachev said he was prepared to defer debts owed by the poorest countries for 100 years. For other developing countries he suggested reducing debts owed to banks and forming an international agency to buy back debts at a discount.

Brazilian Finance Minister Malton Nobrega has said that unless the debt problem is solved Latin American countries will vote into power politicians who espouse radical solutions.

With a presidential election campaign just beginning in Brazil, influential left-wing parties have called for an end to interest payments on the nation's \$118 billion debt.

Last year, U.S. treasury secretary James Baker dismissed a plan by then Brazilian finance minister Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira to turn part of Brazil's debt into bonds at a deep discount.

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Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, Dec. 3, '88 and ending Wednesday Dec. 7, '88. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
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Banking and financial institutions

Industrial Development Bank	6900	11267	1.610	1.630	1.000
Petra Bank	6593	15365	2.240	2.330	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	3870	7240	1.890	1.870	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	20186	30649	1.500	1.520	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	8260	10272	1.250	1.230	1.000
Housing Bank	1480	2827	1.910	1.910	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	2725	6429	2.350	2.450	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	765	12185	15.750	15.900	5.000
Arab Bank	3730	504827	136.750	135.250	10.000
Jordan National Bank	6600	18120	2.720	2.730	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	48080	61655	1.310	1.250	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	40523	87470	2.370	2.410	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	113400	63029	2.550	2.570	1.000
National Financial Investments	4100	9154	2.350	2.340	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	16766	14306	0.840	0.840	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	4500	10800	2.410	2.400	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	12495	10757	0.850	0.870	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	86	1376	16.000	16.000	2.000
Al Mashrek Exchange	—	—	—	—	10.000

Insurance and reinsurance

Jordan French Insurance	8857	47787	5.250	5.550	1.000
RESCO Life Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	445	450	1.030	1.010	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	2850	3713	1.260	1.320	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	2650	2839	1.030	1.100	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	51	50	1.030	0.980	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Eagle Insurance	—	—	—	—	10.000
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	259	339	1.320	1.310	1.000
Arabian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	45325	34078	0.700	0.760	1.000

Services and industries

General Investments	12354	18901	1.470	1.530	1.000
Iama for Investment and Financial Facilities	13015	8345	0.640	0.650	1.000
Danco for Housing and Investment	636304	41509	0.600	0.700	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqar)	41973	31788	0.500	0.530	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	29950	9634	0.310	0.330	1.000
Jordan Leasing Corporation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	34500	6605	0.710	0.690	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance (Ta'jeero)	2000	572	0.770	0.790	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	10948	19110	1.710	1.750	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	2500	2540	1.050	1.010	1.000
Arab International Hotels	—	—	—	—	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	3163	14234	4.500	4.500	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	11956	11505	0.960	0.970	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	1310	3836	2.950	2.900	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	2500	4765	2.000	1.900	1.000
Dar Al Shaah Press, Printing and Publishing	28160	17510	0.620	0.620	1.000
Jordan Dairy	34049	35350	1.040	1.050	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	20072	47840	2.350	2.390	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	19588	26801	1.370	1.360	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	6362	24364	3.830	3.820	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	23179	30969	1.320	1.310	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	649	2829	4.530	4.380	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Alaladin Industries	52051	71255	1.360	1.370	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	100014	207561	2.020	2.090	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	220	1078	4.780	5.000	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	18400	28405	1.610	1.600	1.000
Chemical Industries and Match (JIMCO)	53249	109466	1.970	2.130	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	13250	9505	0.710	0.710	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	9772	21607	2.160	2.210	1.000
National Steel Industries	62232	183775	2.930	2.930	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	41504	83972	1.950	2.050	5.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	2759	23781	8.500	8.700	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	14400	3034	0.220	0.210	1.000
National Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	7348	2518	0.330	0.360	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	6956	14251	1.620	1.570	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	420	294	0.720	0.700	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	15388	22018	1.490	1.490	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	250	205	0.780	0.820	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	800	2868	3.600	3.600	1.000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	2350	2000	0.850	0.850	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Hinch Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	—	—	—	—	1.000
Woolen Industries	15015	12835	0.800	0.860	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Mas Industries	83	1430	16.000	17.250	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	16350	17841	1.100	1.070	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	118676	11818	0.950	0.970	1.000
Jordan Sulpho Chemicals	64950	172043	2.870	2.890	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	209996	271983	1.520	1.280	2.000
Jordan Glass Industries	10239	10492	1.010	1.020	1.000
Grand total	2,106,799	3,081,819			

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3 PM - 6 PM.

CORRECTION
SINBAD SALON...

An advertisement which appeared in the Jordan Times Saturday, Dec. 10, read in part "Please bring your children for a Fund Haircut." It should have read: "Please bring your children for a fun haircut." We apologise for this error.

Violence reported in Lhasa

PEKING (Agencies) — Chinese police opened fire on a pro-independence protest in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, Saturday, wounding several demonstrators and a Western tourist, eyewitness reports reaching Peking said.

Voice of America radio quoted a Western journalist in Lhasa as saying that the incident erupted when a group of about 30 Tibetans circled the Buddhist Jokhang Temple in the heart of the city, waving the banned flag of Tibetan independence supporters.

There was no official report on the clash. A woman who answered the telephone at the Tibetan autonomous region office in Peking said all the officials had gone home for the day, and efforts to reach government offices in Lhasa were not immediately successful.

The demonstration occurred before noon in front of the Jokhang Temple, one of Tibetan Buddhism's holiest shrines, the reports said.

Tibetan Buddhist monks have led a series of anti-Chinese protests in the past 18 months, beginning in late September 1987. At least 14 people were killed Oct. 1, 1987, when one protest turned into a mass attack on a local police station.

In March, pro-independence Tibetans clashed again with police and Western travellers quoted Tibetans as saying at least 24 people died. Chinese reports said hundreds were arrested in October and March.

"About 30 Tibetans walked into the marketplace near the temple," said Lucia Dezries, of URK, the Netherlands. "They were walking in twos. The first man was holding a Tibetan flag. A crowd in the marketplace began to encourage them. Then the soldiers began shooting."

The crowd began pelting the soldiers with rocks, but it was not clear which came first, the rock-throwing or the shooting, she said.

Dezries said a 25-year-old woman, also from the Netherlands, was shot in the arm by Chinese forces.

"She is in the hospital and I think is not seriously hurt," the woman said.

She said she saw two Tibetans lying in pools of blood.

"Later two Westerners told me that they had died," she said. A Tibetan worker at another hotel said he had also seen two Tibetans bleeding in the marketplace.

"I saw women carrying their bodies," he said. "I have been told they are dead."

An American tourist, contacted at another hotel, also said she witnessed the demonstration. She declined to give her name.

The deaths could not be independently confirmed. China's ruling Communist Party has repeatedly said it will not grant Tibet independence, saying the region has belonged to China for centuries.

Most reporters are barred from Tibet but foreign tourists are still allowed in, mostly in officially organised tour groups.

Foreign sources in Lhasa say a threat by some monks to boycott the Great Prayer festival in protest against the jailing without trial of about 30 monks and nuns is another source of friction between the authorities and the three main monasteries.

The festival, due to begin in late February, attracts tens of thousands of pilgrims.

China said this week it had appointed a new Communist Party leader in Tibet but it was not clear whether Hu Jintao, formerly Guizhou province party secretary, has yet arrived in Lhasa.

Police in Lhasa contacted by telex later Saturday confirmed that a demonstration had taken place but declined to give any further details.

China's official media did not mention the incident Saturday but state radio confirmed Hu Jintao's appointment as Communist Party secretary in Tibet.



Argentine army rebel leader Mohammad Ali Seineldin embraces a follower at a farewell ceremony at the Villa Martelli army base where he is held.

Army general given the sack in post-rebellion Argentine moves

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — In the first army shakeup since last week's military insurrection, a general who refused to send his brigade against rebel troops was retired Friday, and rebels formally turned over their last outpost.

Several hundred people marched in the Plaza de Mayo in front of government house to show their opposition to demands made by the rebels, including an amnesty for officers prosecuted for human rights abuses committed during the 1976-83 dictatorship.

General Adolfo Patricio Etcheun, commander of the 4th Infantry Paratroop Brigade of the Third Army Corps, will be replaced by Colonel Francisco Salas, the government news agency Telem reported.

Etcheun had issued a statement at the height of the four-day insurrection — which began before dawn Dec. 1 — saying he and his troops would not fight rebel commander Col. Mohammad Ali Seineldin because they agreed with his demands.

The rebellion was the third and most serious so far against the government of President Raul Alfonsín.

The 4th Infantry Paratroop Brigade, based in the western city of Cordoba, is the most important combat unit at the Third Army Corps. The 47,000-man army has four corps.

A Defence Ministry spokesman declined to comment on any link between Etcheun's retirement and his refusal to confront the rebels.

Seineldin received open support from about 500 troops and three army units — the infantry school at the Campo de Mayo base and an

arsenal, both near Buenos Aires; and the Sixth Mechanised Infantry regiment at Mercedes, 100 kilometres to the west.

The army major who took over the Mercedes base, Hugo Avete, was detained Friday and taken without resistance to the same military garrison in Buenos Aires where Seineldin was being held, Telem reported.

Avete said after Seineldin's surrender last Sunday evening that he would turn the base over. Gen. Humberto Ferrucci, commander of the Fifth Army Corps, arrived Friday and installed Lt.-Col. Don Carlos Antonio Mina as unit chief, the private agency Noticias-Argentinas reported.

Rebels demanded an end to the prosecution of officers for human rights abuses committed during the eradication of subversion during the 1976-83 dictatorship, a host of military retirements and promotions, and a bigger military budget.

Alfonsín said he recognised the legitimacy of some of the rebel demands, particularly the effects of budget cutbacks. But he has insisted their surrender was unconditional and he did not secretly commit the government to any course of action.

Adolfo Perez Esquivel, director of the human rights group Service for Peace and Justice and winner of the 1980 Nobel Peace Prize, helped organise the march Friday.

"The point is, the central point is, the military does not respond to civilian political power. The inability of the government to develop solutions is another central issue," Perez Esquivel said.

U.S. senators demand Botha policy changes

CAPE TOWN (R) — Two visiting U.S. senators sharply criticised President P.W. Botha Saturday and warned of a serious deterioration in relations unless his government reverses its policies.

David Boren said he and fellow Democratic Senator Sam Nunn had hoped to discuss ways of improving U.S. relations with South Africa when they met Botha last Tuesday.

"The state president deeply disappointed us by wanting to talk only about the past, by recriminating about the past... he did not give us an adequate opportunity to have a real discussion about the future..."

"I found the attitude reflected by the state president to be one that would encourage further sanctions by the United States rather than inviting us to have a constructive dialogue," a clearly angry Boren told a news conference.

Botha, 72, is well known for his quick temper and for his rejection of what he sees as foreign interference in South Africa's affairs.

Nunn and Boren voiced alarm at the jailing of leading black activists this week in the Delmas treason trial and at restrictions imposed on anti-apartheid groups. The government seemed intent on narrowing the range for non-violent opposition, they said.

"We believe that the policy

direction reflected by the Delmas trial and continued detention and restrictions without criminal charges being made, unless reversed, will lead to a serious deterioration of U.S.-South African relations," the senators said in a statement.

Four leading anti-apartheid activists were jailed for between six and 12 years for treason this week after the longest trial in South African history.

Boren and Nunn, chairmen of key Senate committees, met more than 50 government ministers, anti-apartheid activists, trade unionists and businessmen during a week-long fact-finding visit.

They leave Sunday for Zaire where they will hold talks with President Mobutu Sese Seko focusing on U.S.-mediated peace negotiations in southwestern Africa.

Boren said the senators had asked Botha for a meeting with jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, who was this week moved to a house in a prison compound in what was widely seen as a step towards his possible release.

"He (Botha) gave us a very rapid answer: 'no, you're not'," Boren said.

Botha gave no clear indication whether Mandela, jailed for life in 1964 for plotting to overthrow white rule, would be freed. Boren said.

COLUMN

Freedom for 7 lobsters at \$240

WASHINGTON (AP) — Animal rights activists spent \$240 Friday to buy seven live lobsters from a suburban Maryland restaurant and fly them to a new home off the coast of Maine. Cam McQueen of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals picked up the lobsters from the House of Chinese Gourmet in Rockville, Maryland, took them to Washington national airport and boarded a flight to Portland, Maine, a Peta official said.

Encyclopaedia on a pin-head

LONDON (R) — Scientists have developed an electron-beam which can produce letters small enough to write the entire 29 volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica on the head of a pin. An electron microscope at the University of Liverpool transmits a beam of highly-charged subatomic particles capable of drilling millions of ultra-fine holes through certain materials.

'Divine' call for Stevie Wonder

DETROIT (AP) — Pop Singer Stevie Wonder says he is being called by God to seek Detroit's highest office. Wonder, who apparently is not planning to seek the office held by Coleman Young in the 1989 election, says he is serious about running for mayor in the 1990s.

Jewelry heist on camera

NEWPORT BEACH, California (AP) — An impatient gunman helped store clerks scoop more than \$560,000 worth of jewels into his shopping bag, police said. But store security cameras recorded the robber as he waited until customers had left the jewelry section of the Neiman-Marcus department store before making his move, police spokesman Bob Oakley said. He forced two clerks at gunpoint to fill a shopping bag with jewelry. "When they weren't doing it fast enough for him, he reached over the counter, grabbed a rack and emptied it himself," Oakley said.

New doubts cast on 'fifth and sixth' forces

By Lee Siegel
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Experiments suggesting the universe is ruled by more than four fundamental forces of nature may be fatally flawed, say researchers who now question their own evidence for fifth and sixth forces that slightly counteract and boost gravity.

The scientists backtracked on statements they made last July when they reported strong evidence suggesting Sir Isaac Newton's 301-year-old Law of Gravity was wrong. Now they say the evidence is inconclusive.

That's because their measurements of gravity inside a drill hole in Greenland's ice sheet could have been flawed by variations in the density of rock beneath the ice, said the researchers from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, and A-T-and-T Bell Laboratories in New Jersey.

A new analysis of the Greenland study shows "our results do not need new forces of nature," and can be explained by the existing law of gravity, Robert

Parker, a team member from Scripps, said Wednesday during the American Geophysical Union's 1st meeting.

One critic took a stronger stance. "There are only four forces in nature. Read my lips. No new forces," said Los Alamos physicist Richard Hughes.

Scientists believed for decades that there were only four fundamental forces that govern the behaviour of all matter in the universe. They are gravity; electromagnetism, which creates light — electricity, radio waves and microwaves — the strong force, which holds the center of atoms together — and the weak force, which lets some atoms decay radioactively.

But in 1986, an analysis by Purdue University physicist Ephraim Fischbach suggested the existence of a very weak "fifth force" that slightly counteracts gravity over distances of roughly 10 to 1,000 metres. The theory gained support from gravity measurements made at varying depths inside a mine shaft by Frank Stacey of the University of Queensland, Australia.

Subsequent gravity measure-

ments made on a North Carolina television tower and in the Greenland ice hole also suggested there was a "sixth force" that was different than gravity but gave a 1.5 per cent to four per cent boost to gravity's attraction between objects that were 500 to 1,700 metres apart.

The mine, tower and ice studies all found slight deviations from Newton's Law, which says the gravitational attraction between the two objects decreases with the square of the distance between them. For example, when two objects that were 30 centimetres apart are moved 60 centimetres apart, the gravity they exert on each other should become only one-fourth as strong.

The three studies' failure to consider variations in rock densities means that "as yet there is no convincing evidence" for a fifth or sixth force of nature, Parker said.

Oceanographer Alan Chave, of A-T-and-T Bell Labs, said planned gravity measurements at varying levels within the ocean should avoid that problems and settle the debate over whether

the new forces are real.

If the fifth and sixth forces exist, "the masses of the planets and stars, as well as the universe's mass and age, would have to be recalculated," the Geophysical Union said in a news release.

Such forces also would change scientists' understanding of "the evolution of the universe in its earliest stages" after it formed in a gargantuan explosion called the "big bang," said Los Alamos physicist Mike Nieto.

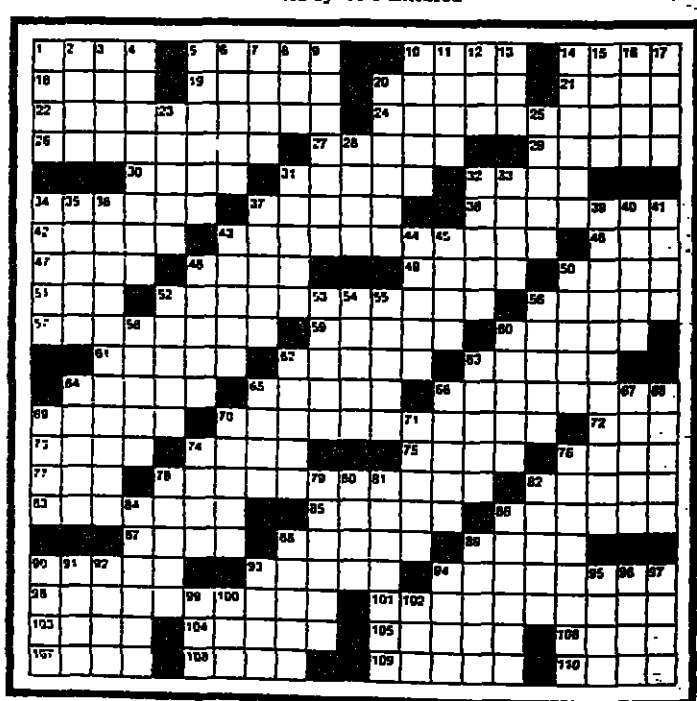
Physicists believe that before the big bang, the four known forces existed as a single, "unified" force, but that in the explosion, they instantaneously diverged into separate forces and matter came into being.

The ultimate goal of modern physics is to find an elegant "theory of everything" that explains all the forces and all the matter that make up the universe, and how they evolved from the unified force.

The discovery of distinct fifth and sixth forces could contribute to finding such a theory by helping physicists explain how gravity is a manifestation of the original unified force.

THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Eitensson



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Golfer tried training collegiate sons to caddy for daddy.
2. Pity our bad tennis player; with right hand he was left, but not good with his left.
3. Euphoria for many game Europeans was wrought by the fall of the Bastille.
4. Peer pressure can produce loud antisocial action.

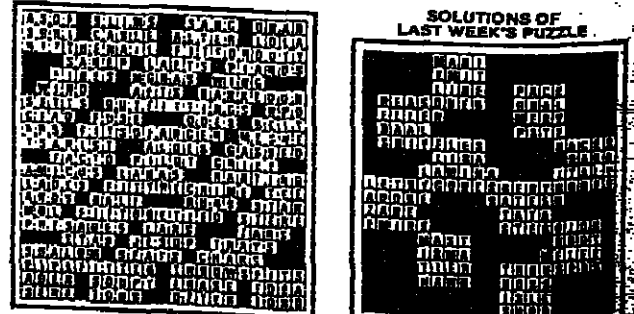
CRYPTOGRAMS

1. MIKIKWIM QNUI QI OLD TIME CURBEE
PHRODINC YU DNI MEKWHI CIRDC YF YLM
PHYATTING YU DVE HVBVVIC — By Ed Huddleson

2. AFIDUBCF BDFGANDH OKJEL QUMKJNCF
FBCFGDHB NC G INCB D JH QDNKJNCH
AODNCP IGMH — By Sally L. Murray

3. BIRDWABTBQDHW APY RB ISCISWH, HSDRC
PNDSTY BN SCISWH — By Barbara J. Ross

4. CPNHPY TKPF JPKCF LOBN DAX BDPNL DJ
JFASX XD HALNDCKFL PX JPSF — By Earl Leland



WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

'U.S. spy satellite had initial trouble'

NEW YORK (AP) — The solar panels on the secret spy satellite launched by the shuttle Atlantis failed to swing open the first time ground controllers commanded them to, and air force officials briefly feared the mission might fail, an industry magazine reports. But, with two astronauts standing by to take a spacewalk if necessary, a second set of radio commands freed the panels, and the satellite was successfully deployed high over the Soviet Union. Aviation Week and Space Technology reported in its Dec. 12 issue.

Rocard government survives vote

PARIS (AP) — Socialist Premier Michel Rocard's minority government survived its first National Assembly censure vote early Saturday when communist members refused to back the conservative opposition. Only 258 members — all members of the rightist or centre-right parties — voted for the censure motion. Under the French constitution the government is forced to resign on a censure motion only if an absolute majority of the 571-member chamber votes for it, not just a majority of those voting. Only votes in favour are recorded, not abstentions or votes against.

New director-general for TASS

MOSCOW (AP) — The government has appointed Leonid Kravchenko as the new director-general of TASS, the official news agency reported Friday. Kravchenko, 50, replaces Sergei Losev, who died suddenly at the age of 61 in October this year.

'KGB ring broken in West Berlin'

COLOGNE (AP) — Federal police and Western intelligence agencies have broken an espionage ring that was supplying NATO secrets to the Soviet Union, the Cologne Express said Saturday. West Berlin Justice Department spokesman Detlev Achammer confirmed that "three people are being investigated for suspicion of espionage." He said one was taken into custody for interrogation Friday, and that a warrant is out for another. He refused to give further details.

Bangladesh foreign minister resigns

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh Foreign Minister Humayun Rasheed Choudhury, president of the United Nations General Assembly in 1987, resigned Saturday. A presidential aide said Choudhury, 64, foreign minister for five years, resigned on health grounds and his resignation had been accepted by President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

Soviet-French space mission progresses

MOSCOW (AP) — After frustrating delays, French and Soviet cosmonauts succeeded Friday in unfurling a plastic web to test space construction techniques outside the orbiting space station Mir. Soviet media reported, Jean-Loup Chrétien and Alexander Volkov began their spacewalk at 0857 GMT. They had been scheduled to complete it in four hours, 20 minutes, the TASS news agency said. But they had several problems, and the spacewalk lasted six hours.

THEY'RE OFF!

By Harold E. Counts

- ACROSS
- 1 Traffic sign
 - 2 Safe carefully
 - 3 Compound
 - 4 So be it
 - 5 USSR river
 - 6 "Qum"
 - 7 "Tankers" name
 - 8 "Glee me" where
 - 9 Not a soul
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Diagramless

10 X 10, By Frances Burton

- ACROSS
- 1 David
 - 2 Assumed an attitude
 - 3 Parent
 - 4 Movie acknowledgments
 - 5 Wide-awake
 - 6 Word of awe
 - 7 Light fixtures
 - 8 Place
 - 9 21 Freudian term
 - 10 Fur places
 - 11 Gaffer's aid
 - 12 Despot
 - 13 Martin or Allen
 - 14 Scrooge oaths
 - 15 "Colorless" creature
 - 16 Part of Earth
 - 17 Bamboo
 - 18 Part of TV
 - 19 Neither's partner
 - 20 Gun's motor
 - 21 Comp. pl.
 - 22 Whips
 - 23 Storage places
 - 24 Liquefies
 - 25 In prolation
 - 26 Whodunit item
 - 27 Assess
 - 28 Long tales
 - 29 Ottoman VIPs
 - 30 Specchies
 - 31 Lulu
 - 32 Records
 - 33 No it's, ends
 - 34 "or"
 - 35 Wrath
 - 36 Mates
 - 37 Sublight
 - 38 Humorous suffix
 - 39 Gang
 - 40 Broken-down
 - 41 Highway unit
 - 42 Bowling score
 - 43 Seasoning
 - 44 Part of a Confederate signature
 - 45 Genu
 - 46 Gor. article
 - 47 Camping place for troops
 - 48 Flower part
 - 49 Advance Arthur
 - 50 Peria
 - 51 Gambling city
 - 52 Farm animal
 - 53 Royal title
 - 54 Genu
 - 55 Sandra or Ruby
 - 56 Dig
 - 57 Actor Will